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CARTER WILL SPEAK MONDAY ON DISPUTE OVER SOVIET TROOPS

VANCE REPORTS ON MEETINGS

Gromyko Said to Have Stood Firm
on Denial That Force in Cuba
Has a Combat Capability

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 28. — President Carter will speak to the nation Monday night on the impasse with the Soviet Union over the United States contention that there is a Soviet combat brigade in Cuba.

Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance reported to President Carter and senior officials last night and today that the Soviet Union had categorically denied the presence of a combat unit and had turned aside American suggestions that would strip the 2,000 to 3,000 troops of any combat potential.

According to Administration officials, Mr. Vance said that Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko had held firm, during talks in New York Monday and yesterday, to the Soviet position that the Carter Administration was artificially creating a crisis over the troop situation.

Gromyko Offers a Pledge

The only flexibility he showed, officials said, was a pledge that Soviet forces, which he insisted were in Cuba solely as military instructors, would never be given combat capability.

The White House said that Mr. Carter's speech is to be televised at 9 P.M. Monday, a day later than Mr. Carter at first planned.

In the State Department, there was gloom over the situation. Some officials said it was self-inflicted by the Administration's handling of an intelligence community finding last month that a combat unit was in Cuba, and that it might have been there for a decade or more.

No diplomatic contacts with the Russians are scheduled this weekend. Some officials said the main chance for a quiet settlement would be in a Soviet move to disperse the unit, giving its equipment to the Cubans and possibly withdrawing some troops so that American reconnaissance planes and satellites could photo-

Issue Chills U.S.-Soviet Ties

Mr. Carter promised three days ago to report on the troop situation within a week. The issue has put a chill in Soviet-American relations and imperiled Senate approval of the strategic arms treaty.

There was no indication today what the United States might do about the presence of the brigade, which it asserts is a combat unit that may have been in Cuba for more than a decade.

Mr. Carter conferred last night with Mr. Vance and Zbigniew Brzezinski, the national security adviser, after Mr. Vance returned from New York. They were joined by other senior advisers, including Vice President Mondale, Secretary of Defense Harold Brown and Admiral Stansfield Turner, Director of Central Intelligence.

The talks were continued at breakfast this morning with the addition of aides such as Lloyd Cutler, who has been in charge of coordinating efforts toward approval of the strategic arms treaty, now in jeopardy because of the demands of some senators that approval be linked to withdrawal of the Soviet brigade.

A newly formed panel of distinguished public figures, known as "The Wise Men," headed by Clark M. Clifford, was to meet at the White House tonight for a private dinner to discuss possible recommendations to the President.

The seven members of the group, plus another panel including Henry A. Kissinger and Dean Rusk, former Secretaries of State, will meet with Mr. Carter tomorrow, officials said.

The exact role of the outside advisers has not been elaborated upon by the White House.

Some members of the Clifford panel said they were told that the President wanted as complete a set of recommendations as possible before deciding what to do and that he would rely heavily on their proposals.

It was understood that the idea for "The Wise Men" arose from Mr. Carter's talks at Camp David in July, when he solicited recommendations on how to improve his Administration.

Vance Cancels Weekend Trips

Mr. Cutler, president of the American Retail Federation and occasional political adviser to the President, and Hedley Donovan, former Time magazine editor recently added to the White House staff, were said to have been largely responsible for the creation of the panel. The White House said there would be more than 12 members in the two groups.

Mr. Vance, who had planned a speech at Yale tomorrow and a trip with Mr. Mondale to Panama on Sunday for ceremonies to turn over the canal, has canceled both engagements and will remain in Washington for the talks on how to respond to the situation in Cuba.

Throughout the last month, the President has said that the status quo of the reported Soviet brigade was "unacceptable." He has also said that if a diplomatic solution could not be found, the United States would act on its own to seek a change in the existing situation. But he has ruled out a military confrontation, and his aides have dismissed such measures as a ban on the sale of wheat and other grains.

Steps to Vex Russians Weighed

Among the ideas that have been considered have been an increase in military surveillance of Cuba and actions to annoy the Russians politically, such as a show of favoritism toward China.

Mr. Carter has rejected, however, going along with those senators who would hold the strategic arms treaty hostage to resolution of the brigade question.

Jody Powell, the White House spokesman, said today, "There is absolutely no doubt of the President's determination to push forward with SALT. This issue will decide the nature of the world we live in for a decade or perhaps more."

An Administration official said that Mr. Carter would prefer to campaign with a strategic arms treaty but, if necessary, he was prepared to campaign on behalf of its approval.

Although the meetings and reports of the impasse in the Soviet-American talks provided ingredients for a Washington crisis, Administration officials went out of their way to avoid creating a crisis atmosphere. "There is no crisis," Mr. Vance said to reporters who caught him for a minute at the State Department.

On Capitol Hill, the Senate majority leader, Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, said the situation was a "pseudocrisis" and again urged that there be no linkage between the Soviet troops in Cuba and the strategic arms treaty.

The House speaker, Thomas P. O'Neill of Massachusetts, said that his office had not received any mail about the situation in Cuba.

Mr. Carter and Mr. Vance have consistently said that the presence of a Soviet combat brigade, which might have been in Cuba since the 1960's, posed no military threat to the United States but was more of a political problem.

Withdrawal or Other Steps

Mr. Vance tried to persuade the Russians that for the sake of Soviet-American relations they should agree either to withdraw the 2,000 to 3,000 troops or take steps to demonstrate that they had no combat capability, such as dismantling the force and transferring equipment to the Cubans.

Mr. Brzezinski said yesterday during a question-and-answer period before a university alumni group: "This is a political problem — not comparable to the 1962 missile crisis." In the 1962 crisis, he went on, "there was a direct, overt strategic threat to the United States."